

Howdy...

J.J. Johnson - Posted: 01.25.00

As you can see by now, the Digital Revolution is in full swing. There's a bunch of folks out there surfing the net looking for that hot piece to post on their site.

But here at the SierraTimes news ranch, we don't surf – we graze.

Surfing is what we expect people on the coastlines to do. But we go for the heartland. The people who drive the train, fix the tracks, have fingernails too dirty to even be allowed on a keyboard. Yes, the taxpayers, the land owners, the men and women who get up every morning and get it done themselves. These are the people who the big media forgets about – the ones who live on the between Interstates 5 and 95. That's why we have to dig harder.

We don't put out news for the benefit of the government. They have broadcast media for that. We want this to be your news site. There will be more reasons to hang around here in the future as E-wolf, our double barreled Webslinger whips out even more of his first amendment arsenal, and the ranch hands keep cranking out more exclusive news. But in order to make this your news site, all the better if you got the news close to home. Or that the rest of us find out what your local fish wrap is trying to brainwash you with.

You'll never know when the same raw sewage you're being fed isn't being served on someone else's plate and the same time – unless you send it around. And that's what we're asking for. We just can't be everywhere at one time.

But this audience can be...

Folks, we need news. Let me list out what kind of news we're looking for, and that will tell you where we're going. It may not seem important to you, but in the big picture, similar information from around the country could prove to be a pattern.

First, we want government whistleblowers. Local, state, or federal makes no difference to us. If they have the guts to put their butts on the line, they should at least be given a broad audience. Any reports like that in your area? If so, send 'em. The next type of stories we're hungry for are police shootings. We don't care how justified they are. In fact, if you take them at their words, all of them are justified.

As you know, we are keeping a running tab in our Wack'em & Stack'em Department. We're not just counting the bodies, but the excuses as well.

Gravediggers? Ambulance chasers? Heavens no...Check this out: You know all those stupid gun lawsuits out there? I would be just tickled brown if there was information on hand that showed most of those city's cost for gun related activities came from their own blue lines. This is information we think may somehow miss those FBI databases.

And wouldn't be interesting to know that maybe the same silly excuse you heard for the latest state-sponsored assassination in your backyard happens to match one from the other side of the country?

The other things we are looking for are examples of stupid criminals. These cases happen everyday. The bank robber who leaves his ID at the teller window, the burglar who dials 911 when he notices the bedroom with all the jewels is protected by a hungry canine, Or the moron who steal a cop car just for

the thrill. We drool over these. Got em? Send em.

Dirt on a politician? Yummy.

Home owner defends their home with Second Amendment hardware? Oh joy.

In all cases, if you can't find the story on the web, just tell us where you heard it. We'll chase it down. Sending the URL's is best. These are the kinds of stories that people want to know about. At least that's what we think.

Now for you folks here in the west, this sight was designed with you in mind. I suggest you folks belly up to the bar before Dixieland has their say in it. Our here in the west, most of our towns are miles apart – and we're not talking 20 or 30. Try 100 to 200. Sometimes getting all these folks together is like herding cats. But we're going to make every attempt to do so here.

We believe the cowboy is NOT a dying breed, just like people who believe states rights are still worth fighting for. The individual battle you fight against the BLM, the USFS, the EPA, the F&WL, IRS, do not have to be waged alone.

People want to hear your stories. Wouldn't be nice if after those environmental Nazi's somehow produce 10,000 public statements support the government right to steal your water, land and grazing rights, you could produce 20,000 statement from people telling them to kiss your Sagebrush?

Wouldn't it be nice if you needed just a few extra ranch hands for a few days and knew they were only a mouse click away? What about that rodeo? That cattle drive? Maybe make a few extra nickels boarding that extra room out for awhile? Whatever...

The fact is, many of us our west do not have a media with enough profits to cover the area. The demand simply doesn't justify the supply.

Enter SierraTimes.com, where we comb the western fish wraps looking to scraps of info-dirt that the other guys miss.

For you folks in Dixie, there happens to be a little thing called a Sagebrush Rebellion out here, with some folks thinking that the stage is being set for that type of "heated discussion" we all had about 140 years ago. Hope not, but we here at Rancho Sierra have all but chosen sides. If we can inform, educate, and entertain in the right way, we Westerners can show Dixie what Western Pride is again.

You'll see a lot type of news in the future of that in the future from places like Elko, Nevada. We'll be there.

Back to Dixie for a spell. I'm not counting you folks out. We'll handle the big news rags, i.e. Atlanta, Charlotte, Tampa, Birmingham, etc. You folks go for the small ones. We've learned that you'll find a few honest reporters in the smaller papers. Thus, you get better news. Maybe that small-town paper doesn't even have a web presence. Forward it here, and one the ranch hands will get to it.

Don't be afraid to graze the big fish, too. We might miss something. This goes for the rest of you folks in between. We're all a part of this country, and most of us do something in part to make the great place it is. Our goal is to keep it that way.

As long as we're at it though, let's go over what we don't cover (or simply try to avoid): 1. Hollywood. We both know that there are certain digital news rags out there that can't help but to gossip about who

is wearing who's socks, and how many letters are in a company's name.

Whatever gets the most eyeballs, I guess. But if it's all the same to us, we rather leave that oozing cesspool of yelling, screaming bunch of banshees on the other side of the Sierras so we don't have to patronize, look at, or listen to their Fabian socialist, Bubba loving rear-ends. These people are not news to us.

Then again, you never know when we just might have to join in and get some other Fat Slob fired from K-mart again. It happens when some of them forget to simply be the trained moneys we pay them to be and – stay the hell out of politics.

2. Politics and the District of Conspiracy – meaning Washington. (Yes, we have worse names for them) We are tired of covering them. We are tired of having to look at them. We are tired of Sam. Cookie, Dan, Peter, Tom, Dick, Harry, and all the rest of them. But in the last staff meeting, they agreed we would have to cover at least some of it. You'll see it on our section called (S)election 2000.

By the way, to the other electronic news rags...listen up: Sierra Times will not suck up for that cyber interview that everyone is dreaming for. We'll interview a few girlfriends, boyfriends, tax accountants, bail bondsmen, and dope dealers of some of these candidates. That should grab an eyeball or two. And we don't endorse ANYONE. We feel our readers are smart enough to think on their own. Else they wouldn't be here.

So, now you know. We want to make an impact. We want you to be informed, and we want you to come back.. We need your help in making this site grow. And we can't pay you, since none of us make a dime at this right now. We all went broke last year buying all that gear the other digital news rags were hocking. What a great motivator.